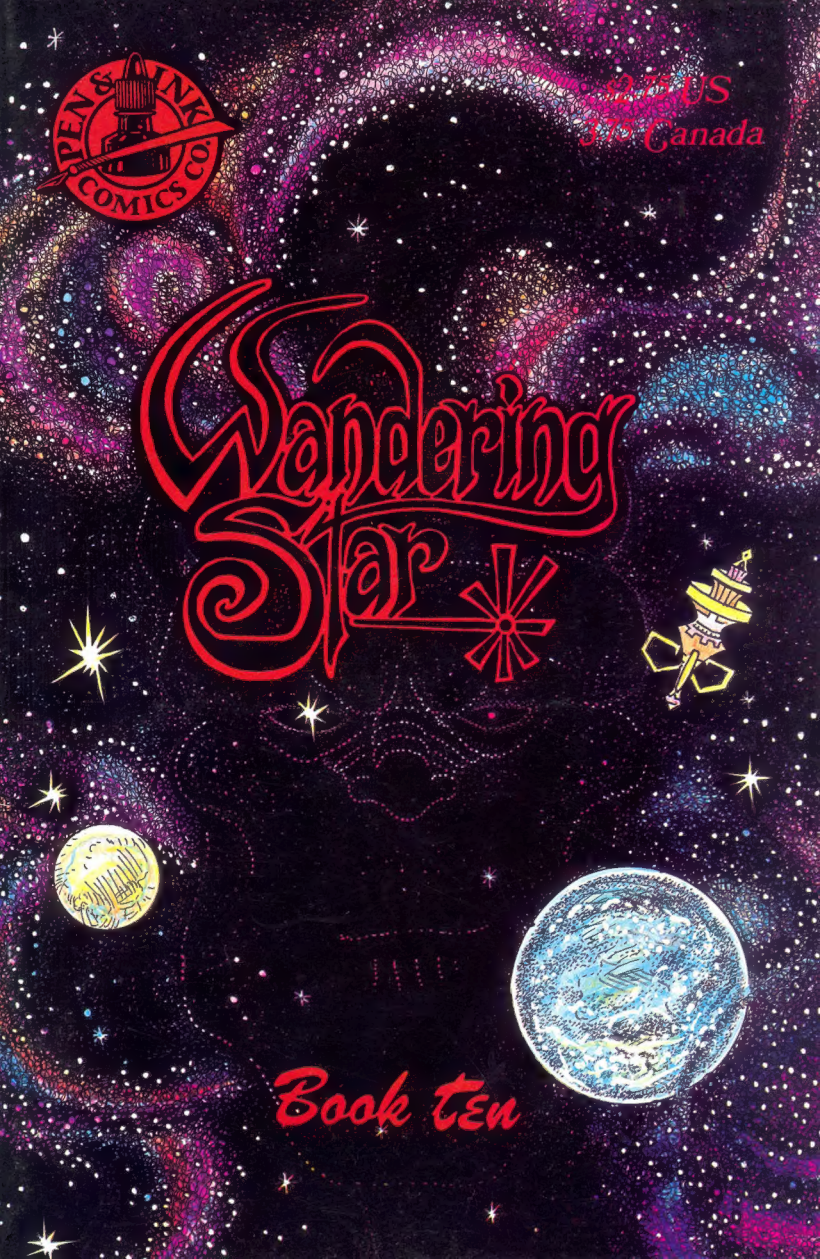
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Wandering Star
Book Ten

Wandering Star

Book Ten

by Teri S. Wood

Look! I'm back! And there wasn't a ten month wait! Sigh. Anyway, it's back to the drawing board. And, Book Eleven's solicitation information has been sent off to the distributors, so if all goes well, it'll be out sometime in January. After that, my tentative WANDERING STAR schedule runs as follows: March 96--Book 12, May 96--Book 13, July 96--Book 14, October 96--Release of WANDERING STAR Trade Paperback, Vol. 2 (regular and signed, limited edition), and the re-release of WANDERING STAR Vol. 1.

As for DARKLIGHT, it looks like I'm going to have a retailer promotional package out sometime in January or February 1997, which I hope will give them enough lead time to properly promote and correctly order the first issue, which should be out May 1997. Anyway, that's the plan. Of course, 90% of me getting there depends on me having the money ta print'em, so's if you're thinking about buying something off the SUPPORT WANDERING STAR page, please do.

In other news, I'll be making a few appearances in November. On the fourth, I'll be at the 21st CENTURY COMICS & SPECIALTIES STORE, on 814 W. Chapman, in Orange, California, for it's ALTERNATIVE/ INDEPENDENCE DAY. It's being held between Noon to Five and if you're going to be in town, drop on by and say, "hi". If ya have any questions, give'em a call at 714-633-3440.

I'm also finally going to make one of them SPIRITS OF INDEPENDENCE thingies that Dave Sim of CEREBUS fame has been putting on. I'm gonna be at the James Owens/STARCHILD one in Mesa, Arizona, called GATHERUM '95. I just love the name. Since this is James Owens' stop, he named it and it comes from his comic book STARCHILD. In STARCHILD, the Gatherum is the time when the storytellers get together to remake the world. Cool, eh? Aaaand, if you haven't read STARCHILD yet, I highly recommend the trade paperback. I read most of the individual issues, and I respected the story-line even then, but reading it in this form just gives it . . . I don't know, something special. Check it out.

In other news, remember my sunflowers from last issue's editorial? The ones that were supposed to be fairly impossible to kill? Well, they almost were. I was doing pretty good until we found this dog. A seven month old Chow/Golden Retriever mix. Really nice dog, but unfortunately, he likes to lay on flowers. @#$*%! I tell you, I'm cursed! Anyway, everyone say "hi" to Simba, the newest member of the Zoo.

In other news, once again, for those of you who missed it last issue, there's a little DARKLIGHT preview story in NEGATIVE BURN #25, and the address to write to if you can't find it is Box 672162, Marietta, GA 30067-0037. I've also heard that MU/AEON PRESS, the guys that published the six issues of RHUDIPRRT, THE PRINCE OF FUR comic that I drew, plan on doing a trade paperback collecting the those very same issues. Feel free ta drop'em a line and ask about it at 4731 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105, but make sure ya tell'em "Teri sent ya."

Aaaaand, there's a really cool ALTERNATE UNIVERSE Trading Card set planned for February 1996 from DYNAMIC FORCES. The details are being ironed out even as I write this, and from what I can gather, it's going to be a who's who in the alternative press, so make sure you keep an eye out for it. I'm even going ta have eight cards in it. Yeeeeaaaaa! Cool, eh? Real live WANDERING STAR Trading Cards! Anyway, it's going to be offered through the distributors, so ask your friendly neighborhood retailer to look for it in next month's catalog. Anyway, I'll have more info next issue. (Retailers, if worse comes to worse and ya miss it for whatever reason, contact Alan Jay Payne at DYNAMIC FORCES, 132 Kings Hwy, East #300, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. I'm not sure if they sell directly to retailers or not, but it's worth a shot.)

Lah de dum dum. What else? Oh yeah, once again, all those people who bought pages from me before April 1995, could ya please send me a

11 x 17 copy of your page? Ya see, like I said last issue, I didn't think to make any copies before mailing them off. (Any pages sold after that are cool. Don't worry.) Anyway, if ya do, I'll pencil ya up a drawing of any WANDERING STAR character that ya want. What d'ya say? Thanks!

Ookay, I think that's everything, so I'll leave ya to the story and hope ya all have a really scary Halloween. And don't eat too much of the candy you're SUPPOSED to be passing out to the trick or treaters!

See ya in January!

Teri S. Wood

P.S. You know, I've been having A HECK of a time doing these editorials ever since the printer broke on my beloved BROTHER 2800Q word processor. It's been a nightmare trying to get the computer at KINKOS to read it's ASCII converted files so's I can print up my stuff! A NIGHTMARE I tell ya! ANYWAY, if ya got a used word-processor you don't need, maybe we can work a trade? (Heck, it's worth a shot.) If you are, I'm willing ta put up a set of 1-6 WANDERING STARS (2-6 1st PRINT, Book 1-2nd) and a set of Small Press books from 1988-89 (ONE & TWO) and a coupla pages of original ART. DROP me a POSTCARD telling me wha'cha got and maybe we can make a deal.

WANDERING STAR, Book Ten CREDITS
PROOFED by PRESTON A. SWEET of MAIN STREET COMICS in Athens, GA!
Cool PEN & INK COMICS logo by CHUCK HASPEL (Sorry I left ya out last ish, dude!)
Editorial Printed up this issue by STEVE McLEMORE (Hi, Steve, Sean & Meghan!)

RETAILER
WANDERING STAR
DISPLAY CONTEST!!!!

For those of you who missed it last issue, I'm having a WANDERING STAR display contest for the retailers. The best display gets a copy of the nearly non-existent 1989 small press WANDERING STAR Book (G★SSP!?)
TWO. Back in 1989, I only had enough money to print 50 of them, and I only have five copies left. So, create the strangest, most unavoidable display by March 31st, 1996 (Yes, I've extended the deadline), and send me a photo and it's YOURS!!! I've also decided, that if the ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSE card set goes through, to include a signed, uncut card sheet, and one page of original artwork from my eight card WANDERING STAR set! How's that? Are you ready to rock n roll now? I hope so.

The prizes as I see them right now are:

First Prize: Along with your display photo being run in Book Thirteen, you get a copy of the very rare 1989 small press WANDERING STAR Book Two, a signed, uncut card sheet from the WANDERING STAR part of the ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSE Trading Card Set, AND one page of original WANDERING STAR trading card artwork.

And again, if the set goes through, I'll offer up one each of the last seven original art pages to the next seven best displays. (If something happens and the card set gets canceled for any reason, well, I'll just hav'ta come up with something just as good. But, don't worry. I'm creative.)

Anyway, them's the rules! Let's see those pics!

AND RETAILERS!!!
I've got this crazy idea . . .

Yeah, it is crazy, but here it is anyway. I was reading the other day in the COMICS RETAILER that what you guys and gals want most isn't cool ads in the distributor catalogs, but more ways to get new readers into your stores. Well, I had this really twisted idea, and here it is: I've

noticed that while waiting in the doctor's office, I'll usually read ANYTHING to kill time. (No kidding, last time it was POPULAR MECHANICS.) Anyway, I was thinking, I have all of these mis-printed Trade Paperbacks I can't sell, and what if we could get some of them into a few waiting rooms in your town? Perhaps with one of your business cards taped on the page across from the editorial (It's blank in this printing), and maybe a little note saying, "COMICS AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS ANYMORE! If you enjoyed WANDERING STAR, well, then come on by my shop and pick up issues 8-14, or check out some of the other outstanding comic book series, such as . . . (fill in the blank.)"? Maybe it could lure a few new readers into your shop.

Anyway, if it strikes your fancy, and if your willing to cover the book-rate postage of $3.50 I'll ship you ten copies pronto. (Again, these books are NOT FOR SALE!! No! No! No! Don't make me come afta ya with a BIIIIG stick.)

Oh yeah, before I forget...

Okay~I'm looking for a couple of addresses... The first is for Alaina Harmon. Alaina sent me this wonderful Cassandra statue she made. <I was gonna run a picture, but it didn't come out. Sigh.> Anyway, I was going ta send her a little "thank you" after I found a house~but I lost her address. <Sorry, Alaina> The other address I need is for Erik N. Bergland. Dude, they returned your package. Help? Thanks, everybody.

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NO SUBMISSIONS PLEASE!
(Really folks, it's hard enough to be a SELF-publisher.)

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Wandering Star

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BK FIVE ~ 7, 8, 9, 10, 17 & 20
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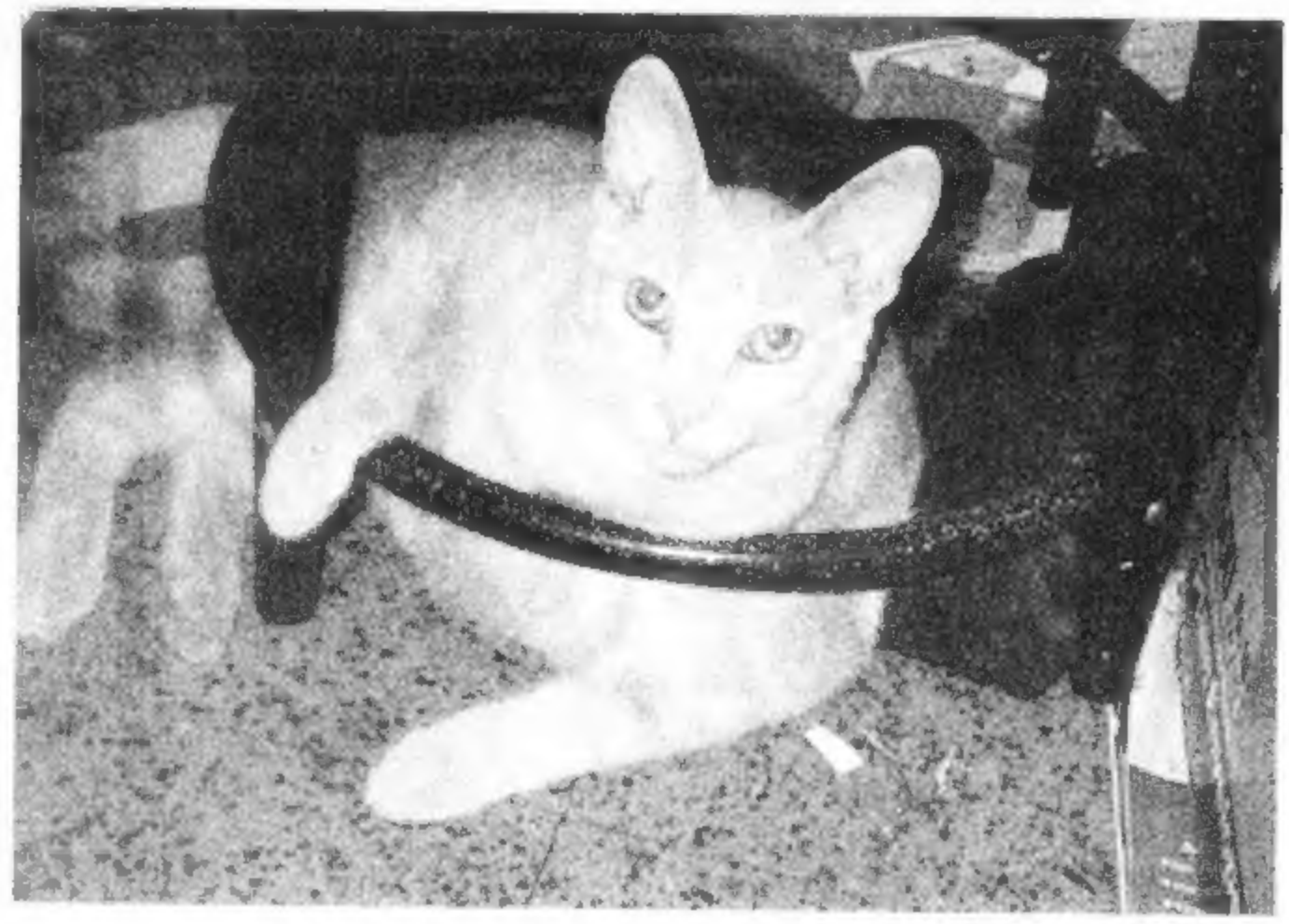
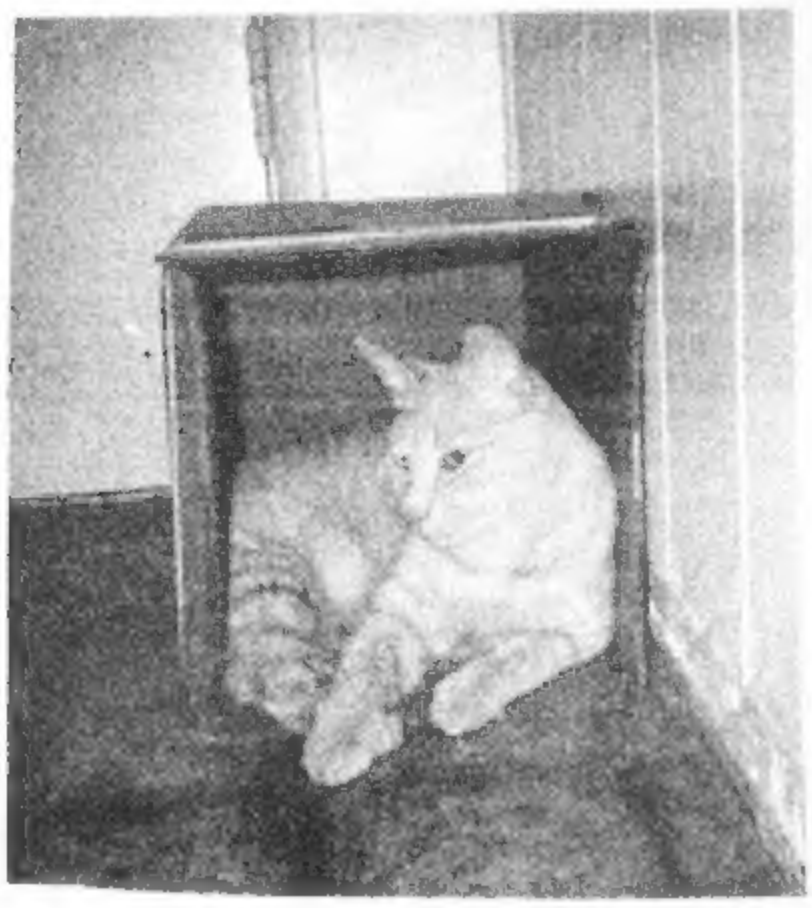
One Last Bit of Insanity Before We Start Our Story...

Ladies & Gentlemen!
Boys and Girls!
Pen & Ink Comics presents
Oliver the Cat for President!



Hey~ American Politics has already gone to the dogs~ call it "equal opportunity"! Heh.

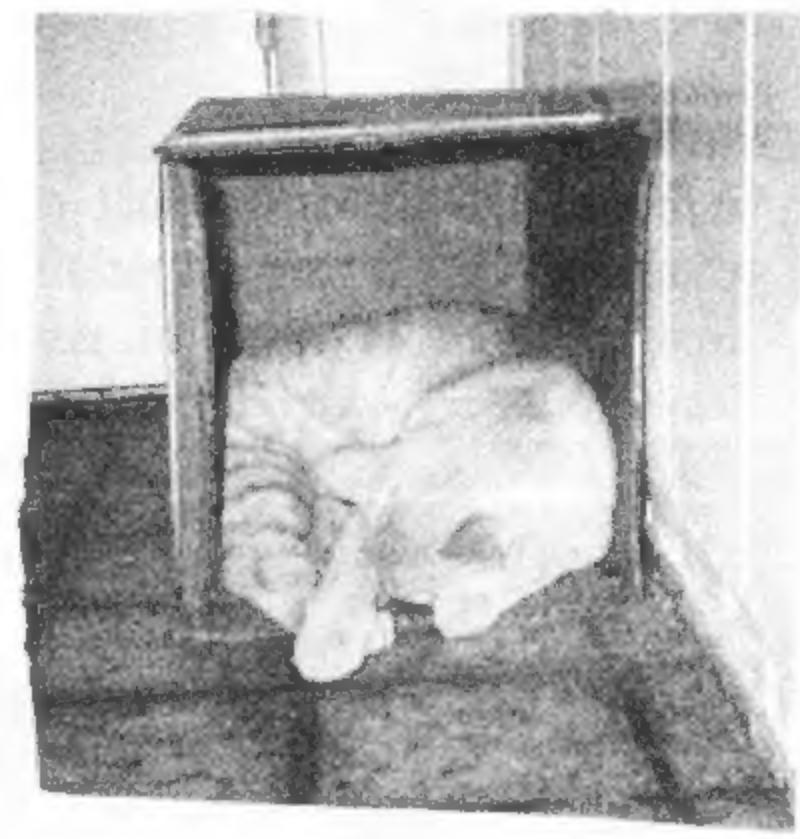
Anyway, our little feline doesn't have any questionable land deals going on.



He doesn't drink or smoke. And he's "fixed", so he doesn't sleep around.

He didn't watch ANY of the O.J. Simpson trial.

And~ as you can see, he won't need a big-expense account.



And best of all: he doesn't play any musical instruments!

Twerp Parrot will be running on the same ticket, as Vice-President. Now, ol' Twerpy doesn't have a real big vocabulary, but, from what I've heard about the office of Vice-Pres... He doesn't need one.

Heh-heh/Heh. Ahem. Oh yeah! I haven't the foggiest what ta call Oliver's party~ so if ya'all will be so kind as ta send me your ideas and a stamp~ I'll send ya an Oliver for President button! Really~ I will. 'Cuz I'm sick and twisted. And it's late. And I've had way too much coffee!

Nighty-night. Zzzzzzz

MEKON.
YES.
COMMANDER NARZ'S LITTLE GIFT.
MY TULSAR SERVANT TO BE.
IT WAS...
...QUITE A SHOCK.
SEEING HIM THERE IN MY ROOM.
I LOOKED INTO THAT EMOTIONLESS FACE,
...INTO THOSE VACANT EYES...
...AND I REMEMBERED THE ACADEMY.
I REMEMBERED WHAT A JERK HE'D BEEN...
...AND HOW MUCH I'D HATED HIM...
...AND...
...AND...
...YET...
No.

NO.
HOW...
...HOW?
DID THE WORLD GET SO CRAZY?
SAM
SAM
SAM
SAM

Ah, God.
Ah, God, Mekon!
I'd Almost Be willing to sell my soul...
...Just to Hear you make some stupid crack.
God Anything!
ANYthing!
To make my life the way it was.
PLEASE!
BUT... It won't happen, will it?
It won't ever be the same again.
AND, what if I was wrong?
I didn't see any of this happening.
What if I was wrong about the ship?
I thought I was so smart.
Junior squad leader supreme.
I was going to pull a fast one on the Bono Kiro.
BUT... ...BUT...
...WHAT IF I WAS WRONG?
What if I've gotten Eli killed, too?

You!
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT ME FOR, YOU STUPID JERK?
WAIT A MINUTE...
...I KNOW YOU'RE FAKING IT, MEKON! COME ON! TALK TO ME!
TALK TO ME OR I'LL ...I'LL...!!
TALK TO ME!
GOD! WHAT AM I DOING?
TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT HERE, MEK.
YOU MISSED A GREAT BARBARIC HUMAN DISPLAY.
Aaah...
...WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
Ah, God...
I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH!
I'M NOT!
I CAN'T!
I CAN'T!
...I...
...I...
...CAN'T!
God?
IS ANYBODY UP THERE?
PLEASE, I COULDN'T STAND ANOTHER DEATH ON MY HANDS.
Please, God.
PLEASE!
IT HAS TO WORK!

IS..
ANYBODY
..LISTENING TO ME?
SPAM

Sigh.

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS INSANE

I NEED A SHOWER.

No.
IT WILL WORK.
MADISON WILL BE SAFE.
ELLI WILL BE SAFE.
AND THE PLAN WILL WORK.
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE ANYTHING ELSE.

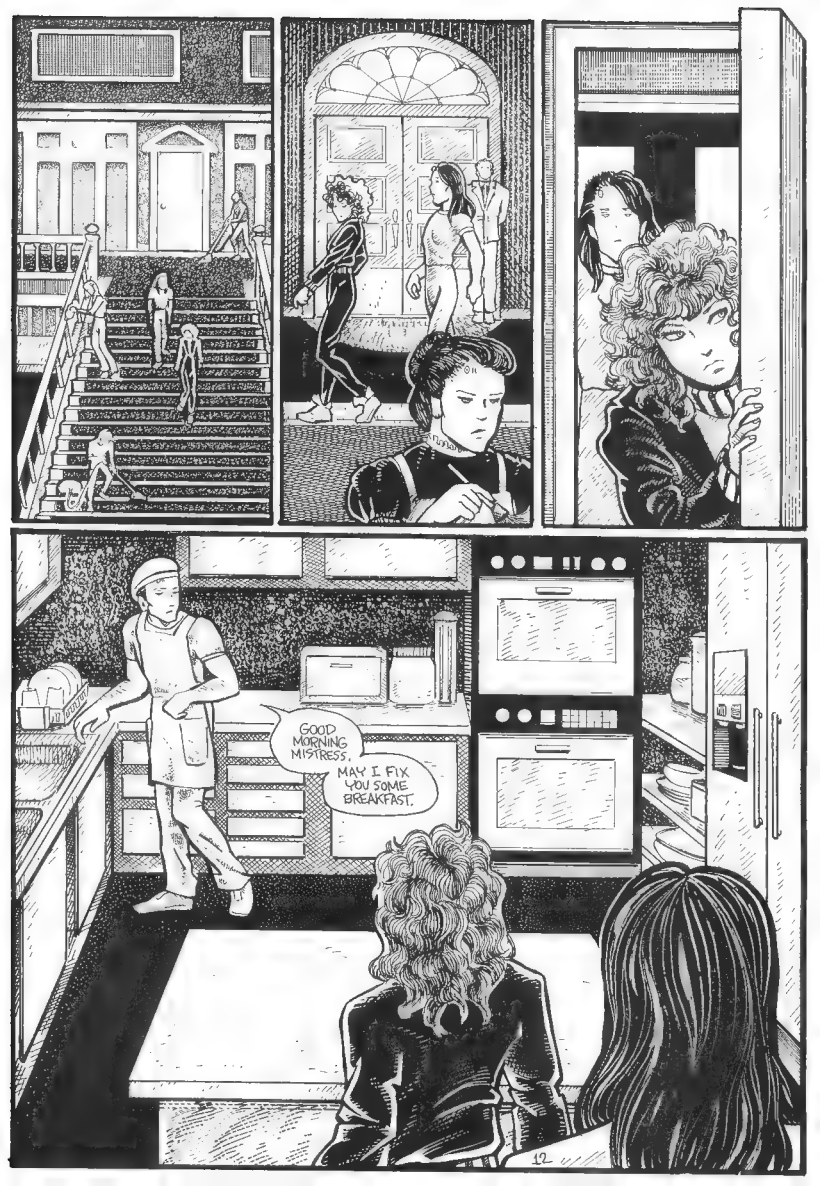
"IT WILL WORK."
Sigh.

FINALLY, I STEPPED OUT OF THE SHOWER.
DRIED OFF.
GOT DRESSED.
AND THEN CAREFULLY... PLACED MY CLOTHES IN A PLASTIC BAG.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I DID THEN?
I TOOK THE BAG OF CLOTHES, AND PLACED IT ON THE TOP SHELF OF MY CLOSET, IN THE BACK.
I COULDN'T THROW THEM AWAY, YOU SEE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE THROWING DAVID AWAY.

ALRIGHT.
LOOK
I'M VERY TIRED
SO...
...I'M GOING TO SLEEP EARLY.
OKAY!
THAT'S YOUR CUE..
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
GOOD BYE!
WELL...
...YOU'RE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR THEN.
WHATEVER.

How AM I SUPPOSED TA SLEEP WITH... SIGH!
SHUFFLE SHUFF SHUFF!
??
SHUFF SHUFF
oh. SPLENDIFAGULAR.
SIGH
'NIGHT, MEKON

WHEN MORNING CAME.
...I WAS THERE TO GREET IT.
I SAT BY MY BEDROOM WINDOW...
...AND WATCHED THE UNFOLDING OF THE DAWN IN THE CITYSCAPE OF COURAGEOUS.
IT CAME SLOWLY..
A FEW FLICKERING LIGHTS HERE...
...A FEW THERE.
UNTIL LIGHT REACHED "NORMAL" DAYLIGHT STANDARDS.
I REMEMBERED ALL THE TIMES I'D WATCHED IT BEFORE THE WAR, BEFORE THE ACADEMY. BACK THEN IT HAD SEEMED ALMOST MAGICAL. BUT NOW...
...PERHAPS IT WAS THE REAL SUNRISES I'D WATCHED ON TRENADOR.
...OR MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE CIRCUMSTANCES I FOUND MYSELF IN...
...BUT NOW..
...IT SEEMED SO LIFELESS..
...SO MECHANICAL.
IT ALSO SEEMED EXACTLY THE RIGHT KIND OF SUNRISE TO WAKE UP TO ON THIS NEW, COLDER EARTH.
CLICK
WELL, MEKON.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW ME
..FOLLOW ME TO THE KITCHEN.
I'M GOING TO GO GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT.


GOOD MORNING MISTRESS.
MAY I FIX YOU SOME BREAKFAST.

Uh...
NO, THANKS. I'M FINE.
GO DO WHATEVER IT WAS YOU WERE DOING.
SO, TELL ME, MEKON.
WHAT'S A TULSAR'D MACHAVIAN EAT FOR BREAKFAST?
FP CODE ONE, FOUR SIX, TWO, NINE, DASH, FOUR, TWO EIGHT, ONE,
SOUNDS YUMMY
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
DING!
Oh,
AND it LOOKS YUMMY, TOO.
BON APPETIT, DUDE.
13

MEKON?
ARE...
...YOU...
...IN THERE
...ANYWHERE?
MISTRESS?
FORGET IT.
EAT UP.
SOON AS WE FINISH BREAKFAST, I WANT TO GO FIND NARZ.
I'VE GOT QUESTIONS.
GOOD MORNING, CASANDRA.
SLEEP WELL?

I SLEPT JUST FINE, THANKS.
YOU KNOW, I WOULD'A NEVER TAKEN YOU FOR THE TYPE OF GUY WHO LIKES FLOWERS.
OH?
NO.
MORE LIKE A LASER-BLAST ALL OF THE FLOWERS TYPE OF A GUY.
Ah... NOT A VERY GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER, ARE YOU?
YOU SHOULD WORK ON THAT CASANDRA.
IN LIFE, AS WELL AS IN WAR, TO JUDGE PEOPLE QUICKLY AND WELL IS IMPERATIVE.
SINCE YOU'RE A NOVICE, A GOOD RULE TO FOLLOW...
...IS TO REMEMBER THAT WHATEVER FACE THAT THE OTHER SHOWS YOU IS GENERALLY UNTRUE.
IT'S CREATED TO MASK WHATEVER WEAKNESS IN THEMSELVES THEY FEAR THE MOST.
OF COURSE...
...PEOPLE ARE FAR MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.
BUT IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO START.
SO...
...WHAT'S THE FLOWER MEAN THEN?
WELL, THAT'S KIND OF TRICKY.
SINCE I UNDERSTAND THAT RULE...
...IT CAN MEAN ANYTHING I WANT IT TO.
SO...
...WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?

WELL...

...YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER.
YOU TELL ME.

MM...
...IF I HAD TO MAKE A GUESS...

I'D SAY THAT IT HAS TO DO WITH MEKON THERE.

AM I RIGHT?

IT'S NOT MUCH OF A MYSTERY. RATHER SIMPLE, REALLY. YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU VERY MUCH AND TALKS ABOUT YOU CONSTANTLY.
ABOUT YOUR LITTLE VICTORIES AND DEFEATS AT THE ACADEMY.
AND WHEN I HEARD THAT WE'D FOUND THE WANDERING STAR...
WELL...
I KNEW MEKON WAS ALIVE AND WELL AND WORKING ON A COMMAND SHIP...

...AND I THOUGHT, WHO'D APPRECIATE HIM MORE THAN YOU?

Really?
AND HERE I'D THOUGHT YOU'D JUST DONE IT BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT'D BE AMUSING.

I DON'T LIKE YOU, NARZ.
I DON'T LIKE THIS WHOLE BONO KIRIAN WARRIOR THING YOU'VE GOT GOING.
IT'S ALL SO DARK AND TWISTED.
SO..
..SO..
..ANTI-LIFE!
REALLY?
YES, REALLY!
DON'T YOU EVER WONDER IF YOU'RE WRONG?
DON'T YOU EVER FEEL GUILTY?
EVERY LIVING THING HAS A RIGHT TO LIVE IT'S LIFE!
NO, CASANDRA. EVERY LIVING THING HAS A RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR IT'S LIFE.
YOU CANNOT AVOID DESTRUCTION, CASANDRA,
YOU CANNOT EVEN MOVE..
...OR BREATHE..
...WITHOUT CAUSING CHAOS IN MILLIONS OF MICROSCOPIC LIVES.
THE STRONG SURVIVE, CASANDRA. AND THE WEAK MAKE WAY FOR NEW LIFE.
NO! IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY!
I MEAN..
IT'S..
...IT'S
.. WHAT ABOUT THE ALLIANCE? IT'S SURVIVED HUNDREDS OF YEARS WITHOUT ANY WAR!
YES, AND NOW IT'S GOING TO FAIL.
ALL BECAUSE THEY'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO DEFEND THEMSELVES,
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME!
WOULD IT HAVE BEEN SO INCONCEIVABLE TO HAVE COME IN PEACE?
AS FRIENDS?
BECOME ALLIES?
LIKE EARTH, YOU MEAN?
LOOK...
...I KNOW THAT THE ALLIANCE ISN'T PERFECT...
..BUT AT LEAST WE DIDN'T TRY TO DESTROY IT.
THE ALLIANCE WILL NOT BE DESTROYED, CASANDRA.
IT WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST, BUT IN A BETTER, STRONGER FORM..
...AS PART OF OUR BONO KIRIAN EMPIRE.

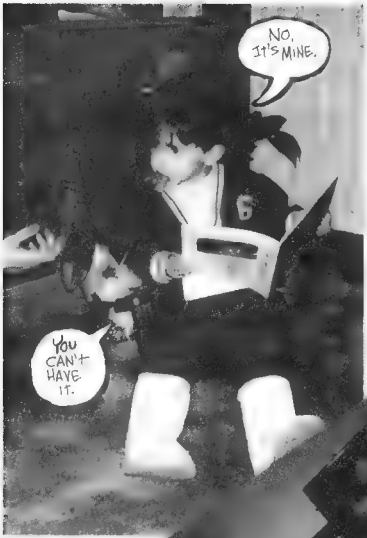
LIKE YOUR VROOL, I SUPPOSE.
GOD! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ARGUE WITH YOU.
PERHAPS IF YOU HAD A BETTER ARGUMENT?
NARZ... ...WASN'T THERE... ...EVER.. ANYONE ON YOUR WORLD. ... WHO TALKED ABOUT PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING?
GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR FELLOW MAN?
DOING UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU?
AH. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT RELIGION NOW, I BELIEVE.
YOUR EARTH JUST HAD HUNDREDS OF THEM.
MADE FOR SOME INTERESTING STUDY WHEN WE WERE PREPARING FOR OUR TALKS WITH EARTH.
ALL OF THEM GOING ON ABOUT A FUTURE PARADISE WHEN EVERYONE WOULD LIVE IN HARMONY, IN PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING.
A REALLY LOVELY PICTURE, I'LL ADMIT.
TELL ME, CASANDRA...
WHICH ONE OF THEM DOES NOT SAY PEACE WILL REIGN ON EARTH JUST AS SOON AS EVERYONE BELIEVES WHAT WE BELIEVE?
HOW MANY WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT...
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED OR DONE MURDER...
...TO SEE TO IT THAT THE RIGHT RELIGION...
...WOULD BE THE ONE TO BRING ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL FUTURE?
ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL WORDS OF PEACE AND LOVE...
...HANDED TO THEIR FELLOW MAN...
...ON THE EDGE OF A BLOODIED KNIFE.

AS I SAID, CASANDRA, YOU CANNOT AVOID DESTRUCTION.
HARMONY, PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING ARE ONLY DREAMS. THEY CANNOT SURVIVE IN REAL LIFE.
THE ALLIANCE IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS.
THEY HAVE EVERYTHING TO LOSE, AND YET CANNOT BRING THEMSELVES TO WORK TOGETHER.
THEY STUMBLE AND FALL IN THIS WAR. AND, INSTEAD OF UNITING, QUIBBLE OVER INSIGNIFICANT DETAILS.
IT IS THE HEIGHT OF FOOLISHNESS...
...BUT IN TRUTH, WHAT DO THEY REALLY HAVE TO BIND THEM TOGETHER?
THAT IS THE KEY TO THE GREATNESS OF THE BONO KIRIAN EMPIRE
WE USE THE UNIVERSAL FORCE OF DESTRUCTION TO OUR BENEFIT.
GROWING STRONGER EACH TIME THE FINGERS OF OUR WAR MACHINE REACH OUT TO TAKE SOMETHING MORE.
OUR PEOPLE ARE UNITED BY THE GLORIES OF CONFLICT.
DESTRUCTION IS THE WAY OF THE UNIVERSE, CASANDRA.
YOU EITHER USE IT.
OR ARE USED BY IT.
THAT IS THE CHOICE.
No!
SHUT UP!
JUST...
...JUST...
...SHUT UP.

AH,
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
WHATEVER DID YOU DO TO KEEP US FROM USING THE WANDERING STAR?
I MUST ADMIT TO BEING RATHER IMPRESSED
IT'S STUMPED ALL OF OUR TECHNICIANS, EVEN MY FRIEND GALKORI, AND HE'S ONE OF OUR BEST.
AFTER WE CAPTURED THE WANDERING STAR, THEY REPAIRED THE DAMAGE, AND WELL...
ALL OF THEIR DATA IMPLY THAT IT SHOULD WORK, YET THE SHIP'S MAIN COMPUTER REFUSES TO PROCESS ANY COMMANDS.
THEY CAN'T EVEN GET IT TO UNLOAD THE STOCK IN THE FOOD PROCESSOR.
IT'S BEEN QUITE AMUSING.
I'VE NEVER SEEN GALKORI SO FRUSTRATED.
BUT I WANDER AWAY FROM MY QUESTION.
WHAT DID YOU DO, AND HOW DO WE UNDO IT?
WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU ANYTHING?
OH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE HERE AND I THOUGHT I'D ASK.
AFTER ALL...
...I'M SURE THAT WE CAN FIND SOME WAY TO GET THE ANSWERS WE NEED FROM YOUR LITTLE FRIEND... WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

MADISON.
Ah yes.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL, CASANDA, I'D BETTER BE GOING.
IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.
WAIT!
LOOK... IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. YOU'RE GOING TO NEED US BOTH, MADISON AND ME TO UNLOCK IT.
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! I DON'T KNOW WHY IT WORKS THE WAY IT DOES, GRAYKOR. BUILT IT AND HE'S DEAD! I ONLY KNOW HOW TO UNLOCK IT.
I'M TELLING the TRUTH!
FINE!
DON'T BELIEVE ME.
LET YOUR DAMN TECHNICIANS FIGURE IT OUT.
YOU GUYS GOT ALL THE ANSWERS.

ALRIGHT.
I'LL MAKE A CALL.
A VROOL GUARD WILL TAKE YOU TO THE SHIP. MADISON WILL MEET YOU THERE SHORTLY.
BUT, JUST IN CASE YOU'VE GOT A WISP OF A PLAN COOKING UP IN YOUR HEAD, LET ME FOREWARN YOU...
I'LL BE SENDING GALKORI AND TWO OF OUR VROOL GUARDS WITH YOU WHEN YOU BOARD THE SHIP.
AND GALKORI HAS A TERRIBLE TEMPER.
I'D HATE TO SEE SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUR LITTLE FRIEND.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
Please, God..
WE'VE GOT OUR CHANCE!
Let it work!



ONCE AGAIN FACED with the awful DILEMMA of extra pages, I'M FORCED to SPRING yet ANOTHER **PICTURE STORY** on ya. Only, this time I'm sorta running against the deadline, so's it's gonna be more like an INSANE GALLERY THINGIE!

OVER YONDER is **DAYMOND ALEXANDER ORTIZ**, my nephew. AND that's my hand, begging—and pleading—for my BARBIE WHISTLE TORCH back.

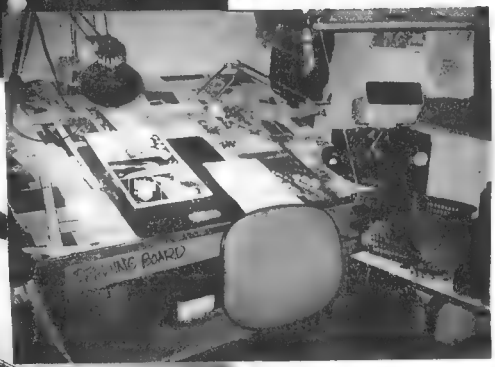
TRULAWNA VILLALOBOS, Pen & Ink Comics New ORDER MANAGER and her supervisor, CHELSIE-DOG.

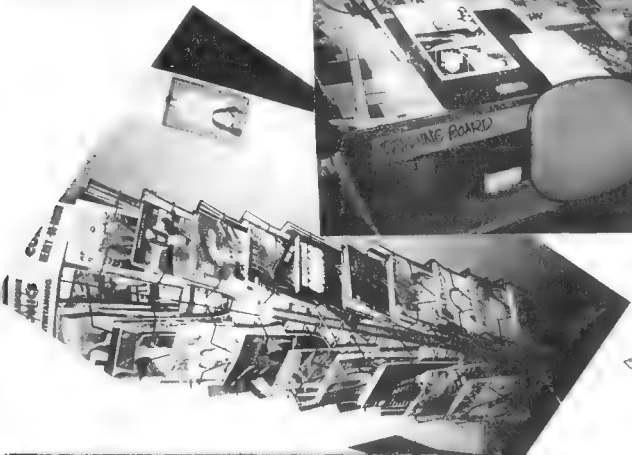
DAYMOND and **BARBIE** TRY to MAKE A BREAK FOR IT

DREW HAYES blinks away sleep while's brewing his INFAMOUS, crunchy, sup-pan coffee. At BOB's house. IN TEXAS.

MICHAEL COHEN deals DREW HAYES A DEADLY blow during a friendly GAME of MAGIC on the TEXAS TOUR.

AFTERWARDS, I RETURN HOME TO THE DRAWING BOARD. sigh —





MY SPINNING COMIC RACK. How MANY TITLES CAN YA PICK OUT?

OLIVER the PROOF-READING CAT [illegible] INFORM [illegible] for the [illegible] in [illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

"It's too cool for color tv. Grab this book now so's you don't have to hunt it down later..."

-Teri S. Wood, *Wandering Star*

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-Mark Thompson
Cold Cut Distribution's *Feature Spotlight*

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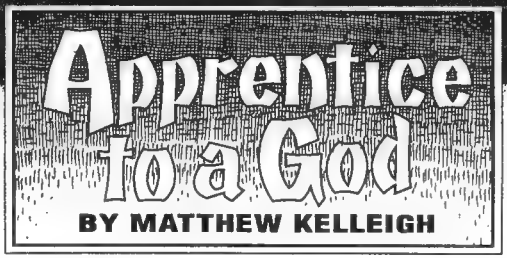
THE CIRCLE WEAVE:



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HAD A LITTLE EXTRA SPACE THIS ISSUE, SO I THOUGHT I'D DO A REALLY, REALLY LITTLE PREVIEW OF DARKLIGHT!

ANYWAYZER ~...

THESE ARE A FEW OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS!

CLAIRESE, DEVON AND CAT.

I'LL TRY TO HAVE A PROPER PREVIEW BY BOOK TWELVE!

SEE YAZ!

TERI

Thank You Very Much!

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Comin' Soon! Terry "Strangers in Paradise" Moore does Indy 12

FEATURE

THE COMIC BOOK MAGAZINE THAT DOESN'T INSULT YOUR INTELLIGENCE

BACK ISSUES

VOLUME 1

#1 Peter David reveals the secrets of Aquaman, The Atlantis Chronicles, the Incredible Hulk, and more in this career spanning interview! Also, Rob Liefeld shares his views on the industry, licensing, his work, and the future of comics. Finally, Marc Pacella talks about *Doom's IV* and James A. Owen's *Starchild* is spotlighted.

#2 James A. Owen discusses *Starchild*'s past, present, and future, as well as the future of the medium, his long term projects, and the rest of his life's work. Also, Colleen Doran's *A Distant Soil* is spotlighted.

#3 Kelley Jones talks about his work from *Sandman* to *Batman*, as well as his upcoming creator owned book, *The Hammer*. Jones also shares his thoughts on the medium, the industry, what good comics are and how to make them in this comprehensive interview no fan of his work should miss!

#4 Kurt Busiek talks about the creation of and life after *Marvels* and gives us a first glimpse of *Astro City*. Also, Marat Mychaels talks about *Knightmare* and other work. Finally, Rick Veitch's *Roarin' Rick's Rare Bit Fiends* is spotlighted.

#5/6 Will Eisner takes us on a career overview from *The Spirit* to his new graphic novel, *Dropsie Avenue: The Neighborhood*. Also, Neil Gaiman gives us a rundown of his current work and looks toward life without *Sandman*. Finally, Larry Marder talks about *Beanworld*, storytelling, and the intricacies of running Image comics. Eddie Campbell said "every word of this issue is brilliant," and he wasn't even talking about the *Bacchus* spotlight.

VOLUME 2

#1 Jeff Smith kicks off *Feature's* second volume with an interview taking us from *Bone's* early days to its move to Image. Also, Dave Sim and Larry Marder talk about the state of the industry and Al Gordon and Jerry Ordway talk about *WildStar* and other creations!

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--Charles Vess, *Sandman, Charles Vess' Book of Ballads and Sagas*

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* REALLY! # IS! —TERI

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Outside Florida)

NAME: HEATHER LUANNE RAKOS
D.O.B.: May 10, 1979
HEIGHT: 5'3" WEIGHT: 120#
I.D. MARKS:

EYE COLOR: Blue HAIR: Dark Brown
DATE MISSING: May 9, 1994
MISSING FROM: Banning, California
REPORT TYPE: Missing Juvenile
L.E.A.: Banning Police Department
Banning, CA PHONE: (909)933-1290

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Heather left home on 5/9/94 and has not been heard from since that time. She is possibly in the company of a white male, 40 years old with scars on his chest from open heart surgery. Heather may or may not be with him willingly. He also wears many braided leather bracelets. They may be in a silver Scorpio Merkur. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Heather Luanne Rakos, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Banning Police Department, Banning, California, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-739139664

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Outside Florida)

NAME: AMANDA "NIKKI" CAMPBELL
D.O.B.: May 7, 1987
HEIGHT: 54" WEIGHT: 60#
I.D. MARKS:

EYE COLOR: Blue HAIR: Blond/Wavey/Long
DATE MISSING: December 27, 1991
MISSING FROM: Fairfield, California
REPORT TYPE: Criminal Abduction
L.E.A.: Fairfield Police Department
Fairfield, CA PHONE: (707)428-7355

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Amanda was last seen on 12/27/91 in Fairfield, California. At that time she was wearing a pink jacket, purple pants, purple shirt and white tennis shoes. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Amanda "Nikki" Campbell, or knowledge of her possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the Fairfield Police Department, Fairfield, California, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-536133336

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Nationwide)

NAME: JOSEPH GILBERT DOLAK
D.O.B.: October 24, 1983
HEIGHT: 49" WEIGHT: 59#
I.D. MARKS: Gap between two upper front teeth. Warts and moles on back.

EYE COLOR: Brown HAIR: Brown/Straight/Short
DATE MISSING: January 31, 1994
MISSING FROM: San Diego, California
REPORT TYPE: Parental Abduction
L.E.A.: San Diego County District Attorney's Office
San Diego, CA PHONE: (619)531-4345

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Father has custody of Joseph. Father sent Joseph to visit his mother who resided in California. She refused to return Joseph to the custodial father - and then she fled with the child, whereabouts unknown. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Joseph Gilbert Dolak, or knowledge of his possible whereabouts, is asked to PLEASE contact the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, San Diego, California, or the Missing Children...HELP Center.

NCIC #M-711711630

Missing Children HELP Center

410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400 • Tampa, Florida 33619 • (813) 623-KIDS • 1-800-USA-KIDS (Outside Florida)

NAME: KRISTIE MARIE FISHER
D.O.B.: September 18, 1978
HEIGHT: 5'1" WEIGHT: 145#
I.D. MARKS: Two "pinky" fingers are deformed. Pierced ears.

EYE COLOR: Brown HAIR: Brown/Straight
DATE MISSING: June 15, 1994
MISSING FROM: Central Valley, California
REPORT TYPE: Missing Person/Juvenile
L.E.A.: Shasta County Sheriff Department
Redding, CA PHONE: (916)245-6000

DETAILS OF DISAPPEARANCE: Kristi was living in a Group Home at the time of her disappearance, therefore, details are sketchy. There is a possibility that she is with a 19-year-old black male named Sean. Any person having any information regarding the disappearance of Kristie Marie Fisher, or knowledge of her possible whereabours, is asked to PLEASE contact the Shasta County Sheriff Department, Redding, California or the Missing Children..HELP Center.

NCIC #M-744597711